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AUDENSHAW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



ON THE STATE OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH OF AUDENSHAW
1947



HAZEL I. ASHFORD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector)



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HAZEL I. ASHFORD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector)

Public Health Committee, 1947-8

Councillor W. BARNES (Chairman)

„ J. E. SMETHURST

„ E. C. HEWITT, J.P.

„ A. HEWITT, C.C., J.P.

„ R. NEWTON, J.P.

„ R. PARKER, F.C.A.

„ A. H. ROTHWELL

„ J. PICKLES (to July, 1947)

„ A. GRATTIDGE (from July, 1947)

„ T. GREENHALGH

„ J. EDWARDS

„ W. McEVOY

„ S. SMITH

Staff

Medical Officer of Health :

HAZEL I. ASHFORD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector :

HUGH C. SLATER, Cert. Royal San. Assoc'n of Scotland
(relinquished appointment 7.6.47)

R. L. R. BESWICK, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(assumed appointment 21.7.47)

Clerk : Mrs. J. Pritchard (to 1.11.47)

Mr. G. H. Fowles (from 1.11.47)

Mr. W. K. Gudger (from 8.12.47)

Statistical.

The following are the General Statistics for the year 1947

Area of District, in acres	... ..	1241
Population (Census, 1931)	... ..	8460
Estimated Population at the middle of 1947, supplied by the Registrar General	... ..	12,340
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census, 1931)	... ..	2,207
Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1947, in accordance with the Rate Books...	... ..	4,129
Rateable Value	... ..	£78,934
Sum represented by a penny rate	... ..	£306.95

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS.

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births.....	Legitimate ...	220	113	107
	Illegitimate ...	8	5	3
		<hr/> 228	<hr/> 118	<hr/> 110

		Total	M.	F.
Still births ...	Legitimate ...	2	2	-
	Illegitimate...	—	—	—
		<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2	<hr/> —

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population18.4

Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (Live & Still) Births..... 8.0

DEATHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths.....	156	84	72

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population was 12.6 (Crude Death Rate).

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths
Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal causes	—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	61
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	63
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	28
„ Measles (all ages).....	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

TABLES.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 give a comparison of the birth and death rates with previous years, and with the corresponding rates for England and Wales.

Table 4 classifies the deaths under certain heads.

Tables 5 and 6 classify and compare the deaths in certain diseases during the last 10 years.

TABLE No. 1.
VITAL STATISTICS. Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

Mean of 5 years	Live Birth rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respira- tory system	Death rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births
				per 1,000 live births	per 1,000 total (live & still) births	
1942-1946 ...	18.1	0.38	1.73	3.83	3.71	40
Year 1946 ...	17.6	0.65	2.46	4.67	4.48	46
Year 1947 ...	18.4	0.32	2.26	Nil	Nil	61
Increase or decrease in 1947						
on 5 years' average, 1942-46	+0.3	+ 0.6	+0.53	-3.83	-3.71	+21
Previous Year ...	+0.8	+ 0.5	-0.33	-4.67	-4.48	+15

TABLE No. 2.

Comparison of Local Birth and Death Rates with those of
England and Wales.

Year	Popu- lation	Birth Rate		Death Rate	
		Local	England and Wales	Local	England and Wales
1937	... 11,460	13.70	14.90	9.80	12.40
1938	... 11,870	14.90	15.10	10.70	11.60
1939	... 11,880	13.30	15.00	10.90	12.10
1940	... 11,840	14.70	14.60	11.00	14.30
1941	... 11,810	16.20	14.20	12.30	12.90
1942	... 11,570	10.80	15.80	12.10	11.60
1943	... 11,810	17.70	16.50	10.84	12.10
1944	... 11,500	18.00	17.60	12.26	11.60
1945	... 11,530	17.70	16.10	12.70	11.40
1946	... 12,150	17.60	19.10	12.10	11.50
Average of 10 years		15.46	15.89	11.47	12.15
1947	... 12,340	18.40	20.50	12.60	12.00

TABLE No. 3. Infant Mortality.

Year	No. of Deaths	Rate of Deaths per 1,000 Births		Rate of Deaths per 1,000 Births	
		Local	England and Wales	Local	England and Wales
1937	..... 2	.....	12	.....	58
1938	..... 10	.....	56	.....	53
1939	..... 6	.....	37	.....	50
1940	..... 5	.....	28	.....	50
1941	..... 10	.....	52	.....	58
1942	..... 5	.....	22	.....	49
1943	..... 6	.....	56.6	.....	49
1944	..... 9	.....	43.5	.....	46
1945	..... 7	.....	34	.....	46
1946	..... 10	.....	46	.....	43
Average of 10 years	7	.....	38.7	.....	50.2
1947	..... 14	.....	61	.....	41

TABLE No. 4. Causes of Death during 1947.

	Total	Males	Females
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever.....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	4	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	1	—
Influenza	1	—	1
Acute polio-myelitis and polio encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	28	15	13
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	20	7	13
Heart disease	40	18	22
Other circulatory diseases	6	3	3
Bronchitis	10	5	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	3	1
Other respiratory diseases	2	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	—
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	—	—	—
Nephritis	4	2	2
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes.....	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. ...	13	12	1
Suicide	1	1	—
Road traffic accidents	4	2	2
Other violent causes	4	3	1
All other causes	12	6	6
	156	84	72

TABLE No. 5.

Number of deaths from certain diseases during last ten years.

Disease	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1
Tuberculosis...	5	9	4	3	3	6	10	10	9	9
Cancer	28	30	20	20	15	17	29	15	12	15
Influenza	1	1	—	3	5	—	1	3	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	4	3	6	6	7	6	6	7	4	7
Bronchitis ...	10	2	13	9	10	3	10	9	3	4
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Enteric Fever.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE No. 6

Tuberculosis Death Rate.

Year	Rate per 1000 Estimated Population
1937	0.43
1938	0.58
1939	0.67
1940	0.59
1941	0.85
1942	0.52
1943	0.26
1944	0.26
1945	0.35
1946	0.74
Average of ten years,....	0.52
1947	0.40

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No epidemic of infectious disease occurred throughout the year. It is gratifying to note that no deaths occurred as a result of Diphtheria and Anterior Poliomyelitis. Two cases of Diphtheria and two of Poliomyelitis were notified as occurring within the district. Both of the former and one of the latter cases were not confirmed.

Cases of notifiable infectious disease are, in the first place, investigated by the Sanitary Inspector. A descriptive leaflet, dealing with the principles of current disinfection, is left with the householder, together with a "free-from-infection" stamp-addressed postcard. On the recovery of the patient the Medical Practitioner completes and returns this card to the Health Department and terminal disinfection of the room(s) occupied by the patient is then arranged. All such rooms are sealed and disinfected with formaldehyde gas. Contacts of the disease are maintained under close supervision where necessary.

Eighteen houses were disinfected during the year.

Where suitable isolation and nursing facilities have existed, arrangements have been made for the home nursing of Scarlet Fever cases. In general, this system has functioned satisfactorily.

Four patients were admitted to Hyde Infectious Diseases Hospital from the Audenshaw area. The causal diseases were as under:—

Scarlet Fever	1	Diphtheria	1
Dysentery	1	Erysipelas	1

TABLE No. 7.

Immunisation state of child population as at 31st Dec. 1947

	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 and under 15 yrs. of age	Total num- ber under 15 years of age
No. of the child population who have now been protected by artificial immunisation (i.e., up to 31st December, 1947)	352	1264	1,616
Percentage of the number so protected in relation to the total number of children in the age group	34.17%	85.98%	64.64%

Number of Children Immunised at School Clinic during
1947 and who completed Immunisation.

Under 5 years—97. 5 years and over—24. Total—121

DIPHtheria ANTI-TOXIN.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is stored at the Health Department, the Audenshaw Police Station, and at a local chemist's shop. Supplies are thus readily available at any hour of the day or night. All out-dated anti-toxin is destroyed and steps are taken to maintain at all times an adequacy of this product.

TABLE No. 8.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Deaths during 1947.

Age Periods	New Cases					Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		.....	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	0	0	0	0	.....	0	0	0	0
1— 5	0	0	0	0	.....	0	0	0	0
5—10	0	0	0	0	.....	0	0	0	0
10—15	0	0	0	0	.....	0	0	0	0
15—20	0	0	0	0	.....	0	0	0	0
20—25	3	0	0	0	.....	0	0	0	0
25—35	1	0	1	0	.....	1	0	0	0
35—45	2	1	0	0	.....	2	0	0	0
45—55	0	0	1	1	.....	1	0	0	1
55—65	0	0	0	0	.....	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	.....	0	0	0	0
Totals	6	1	2	1	.....	4	0	0	1
	7		3			4		1	

The tuberculosis notification system has worked effectively and no compulsion has been necessitated in the removal to hospital of any tuberculous person.

No evidence has been forthcoming of person suffering from active tuberculosis carrying on employment in the milk production or distribution trades.

Disinfection is arranged where necessary.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are dealt with at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and also at the Pathological Department of the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary. This service also applies to private practitioners who may forward specimens direct to the laboratories. Swabs and other material are obtainable from the laboratories concerned and from this department.

Sixty-two specimens have been examined under this scheme, all of them in relation to suspected diphtheria cases. All results were negative.

TABLE No. 9. Notifiable Diseases During the Year 1947. (Other than Tuberculosis.)

Disease	Total Cases all ages.	Under										55 & to over					Total Deaths Cases in H'p'l rem'd to Tot'l Hosp'l deaths
		1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-55					
Scarlet Fever	10	0	1	0	1	1	4	2	1				1				
Measles	157	8	17	21	19	52	32	6		2							
Whooping Cough	3		1				2										
Diphtheria	2						2						1				
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia	7					1	1			2	1	1	1				
Erysipelas	2									1	1	1	1				
Dysentery... ..	1							1					1				
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1							
Cerebro-Spinal Fever...	1							1									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1											1				
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	2				1	1											
Total...187		9	19	21	21	55	41	10	1	5	2	1	2	5	1		

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is supplied by the Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield District Joint Water Board. The water supply is adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality. All of the water supplied is subjected to gravity and pressure filtration with subsequent sterilisation by ozonisation methods.

No samples were taken by this Authority during the year but routine samples were taken by the Joint Water Board at various parts of the supply system in Audenshaw. The results are as follows:—

Type of Examination	No. Taken	Result
Bacteriological	20	All excellent
Chemical Analysis	2	Quite satisfactory

No raw water is supplied to the district and no evidence of plumbo-solvency exists.

Two cases of heavy sediment and discoloration in the water supply were reported to this Department. On investigation, these conditions proved to be due to "flushing-out" operations in connection with water mains.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

New sewerage works were progressive throughout the year.

In one case, a drainage system was completely reconstructed and numerous drains were cleansed and repaired under the supervision of this Department. Preliminary testing was carried out in all cases where the possibility of defects existed.

Much difficulty was caused by the development of defects in the out-dated waste-water closet system which prevails in this district. The large-scale manufacture of tipper apparatus has ceased and, where such a fitting requires renewal, it is often necessary to have a special moulding made.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Closet accommodation existing within the district at December 31st, 1947, may be categorised as follows:—

Pail closets	22
Waste-water closets	1326
Modern water-closets	3107

Several of the above pail closets are situate at farms and houses where sewer facilities are not within a reasonable distance. This mode of disposal is also employed at certain temporary building sites.

Four waste-water closets were converted to the water-closet type during the year. One new water-closet was constructed where the original arrangements were considered inadequate.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

SCAVENGING.

There are approximately 13 miles of roads within the district, excluding unadopted roads, streets and passages.

The District is divided into three working areas and these are swept on the beat system. A mechanical gully emptier is hired periodically from the Denton Urban District Council for the purpose of cleansing all street gullies.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

No privy-middens or ash-pits exist, as such, within the district. An approximate number of 4,250 movable dustbins require regular emptying.

Collection of refuse is carried out by two vehicles, one a 20 h.p. Bedford, and the other a 14 h.p. Karrier Refuse Collector, each being manned by a team consisting of five men and a driver.

Some irregularity in collection has been caused by the development of defects in the former vehicle. On December 30th the Karrier "Bantam" was involved in an accident necessitating its removal from service. Steps were taken to control the position by the hiring of suitable vehicles.

Approximately 4,122 tons of refuse were collected over the 12-monthly period.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

All refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping methods, the tip being situate on low-lying ground in the Shepley Road area. Eventually, it is anticipated, this site will form a useful adjunct to the nearby recreation ground. Two attendants are employed on tipping operations.

A considerable amount of material is sorted and salvaged from the refuse on its arrival at the tip.

The tipping operations have been remarkably free from nuisance, only one slight rat infestation requiring attention.

SALVAGE.

During the twelve months commencing January 1st, 1947, a total sum of £627 was realised from the sale of salvage. The weights of the different materials are as under:—

	Tons		Tons
Waste Paper ..	80.5	Bottles	1.6
Rags	1.6	Metal	1.5
Sacking	5.02	Kitchen Waste	42.65

The co-operative efforts of voluntary workers, especially salvage stewards and shopkeepers, are to be highly commended.

SNOW CLEARANCE AND ROAD GRITTING.

In order to avoid dislocation of other essential services, a skeleton staff is employed, together with one vehicle, to deal with normal snowfalls and frost. A trailer gritting machine is used to distribute anti-frost materials.

In the event of emergency all available personnel from the Health and Highways Departments are directed to the work. Towards the end of the year, a rota system was evolved, this ensuring that men were prepared for duty at all hours of the day and night. A copy of this rota, together with instructions on how to deal with differing weather conditions, was circulated to every man.

PETROL ISSUES.

3,445 gallons of petrol were issued to the various Departments during the year.

	Gallons
Public Health Department.	
Refuse Collection Services	2,416
Gully Cleansing	94
Highways Department.	
Highways, General	729
Civil Defence	3
British Restaurant	98
Cemetery and Parks Department	46
Audenshaw Grammar School	59

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Three caravans were in occupation of one site at the end of the year. This site had not been established in accordance with the licensing provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and sanitary facilities were lacking. A verbal intimation, requiring their removal, was submitted to both the occupiers of the land and of the vans.

No licences were issued in respect of camping sites.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Twenty-nine half-hourly observations were made during the year.

In the absence of Statutory bye-laws, controlling the colour, density, or content of smoke emissions, a tentative standard is employed, this being based on a permissible maximum of three minutes dense smoke per half-hourly observation.

At the present time it is still impossible to obtain consistent supplies of good fuel for industrial purposes, and the expeditious replacement of obsolete or defective boiler and firing apparatus is an extremely difficult matter. The object, therefore, has been to reduce smoke nuisance to an absolute minimum by ensuring the greatest co-operation between managements, stoking personnel and this Department. Where necessary, stokers have been advised and cautioned regarding methods of firing.

The Ministry of Fuel and Power has available technicians who will render advice and assistance in the event of fuel and other difficulties being encountered.

ERADICATION OF INSECT PESTS.

Ten houses were found to be subject to bed-bug infestations. In most instances, this Department has arranged and executed necessary disinfection measures, mainly by means of D.D.T. solution.

It is the policy of the Health Department to encourage the adoption and maintenance of suitable treatments by the occupiers themselves. In cases where occupiers showed themselves indifferent to their surroundings and the welfare of their neighbours, it was found possible to effect all necessary work by educative and persuasive methods.

Fumigation, employing sulphur dioxide, was seldom resorted to. D.D.T., when used efficiently, has proved to possess a very high lethal and toxic value in the eradication of bed-bugs and other insects. It has been found, in many mild infestations, that it is not necessary to strip decorations from wall surfaces, etc., although this precaution is often advised. Occupiers are always advised to institute routine "soap and water" cleansing as a part of the disinfection programme.

Many complaints regarding cockroach and silverfish infestations have been received. Tenants have been advised and facilities provided to enable them to purchase insecticides from this Department.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Authority has the services of one full-time rodent operative.

A special house to house survey of the district is now almost completed.

Two complete surveys of the sewers have been carried out during the year, such surveys including baiting of all manholes and poisoning, where necessary.

A hundred and fifty premises were found to be infested with rats or mice, and were dealt with by approved baiting, trapping or gassing methods. Works carried out in business or trade premises were charged to the occupiers or owners concerned.

Private dwellings treated	136
Business premises	11
Local Authority premises treated	3

SCHOOLS.

There are four elementary schools and one grammar school within the district.

In general, sanitary conditions are fair, although the closet accommodation at two schools is not of a high standard.

Mains water is available at all schools.

FACTORIES.

Cases of unsatisfactory conditions which were notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories were all investigated and the necessary intimation of requirements given verbally or in writing. Routine inspections were also made and action taken where necessary.

Outworkers' premises were also subjected to routine visits.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

(Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	No. on Register.	Inspec- tions.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers prose- cuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	45	61	2	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	19	41	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	64	102	2	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

	Number of		
	Cases found.	Cases remedied.	Prose- cutions instituted.
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)			
(a) Insufficient	5	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	12	9	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to home- work)	—	—	—
Total	18	11	—

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	No.		Notices served.	Pro-se-cutions.
	Section 110. No. of outworkers in Aug. list.	Section 111. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.		
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	16	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	3	—	—	—
Total	19	—	—	—

WORKPLACES.

Routine inspections of workplaces were carried out during the year.

As soon as is practicable, a survey is to be made of all office accommodation within the district, with especial reference to cleanliness, ventilation, overcrowding and the suitability of sanitary conveniences.

HOUSING.

Dangerous structures, walls, etc.

Reports were submitted to the Surveyor in twelve instances.

Housing repairs and conditions.

Over the war years the factors which had so adversely affected and curtailed repair work were undoubtedly the the shortage of materials and labour. By the end of 1947, the position in this locality was rather improved. Notwithstanding, several years of almost complete neglect have served only to create such deterioration that major repairs are now essential in many cases. The effects of this enforced neglect are reflected in the number of complaints of housing defects received by this Department during the year, irrespective of complaints related to other matters. It has been possible only to request the execution of works in respect of the most serious defects.

Difficulty has also been encountered in legally or otherwise requiring certain property owners to carry out necessary repairs. Undoubtedly, high building costs, together with restriction on rent increases, have contributed to this state of affairs.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	139
(1) By the Local Authority	94
(2) By other Local Authorities	nil
(3) By other bodies and persons	45
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts	
(1) By the Local Authority, included under (a) (1) above	nil
(2) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (3) above).....	nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	245
(b) Number of inspections made for purpose	610
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	4
(b) Number of inspections made for purpose	5
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	28
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	217

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice :

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers... ..121

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :
 - (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ... 5
 2. Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By Owners... ... 5
 - (b) By Local Authority... ... nil
 - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 25
 2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By Owners 18
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... nil
 - (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made nil
 2. Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... .. nil
 - (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made nil
 2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

A new house-to-house survey would be necessary in order to ascertain the exact state of overcrowding within the district.

The number of overcrowded houses, obtained from application forms received for Council houses is approximately 100. 106 cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year, this figure including the occupiers of one Council house.

Several complaints of overcrowding were investigated by this Department, reference being made to the Housing Department where necessary.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughtering for the district is carried out at Stockport No. 2 Abattoir. This slaughterhouse operates on a regional basis and caters for the following districts: Audenshaw, Denton, Hyde Borough, Marple and Romiley. The meat inspection services are operated on a rota system by the inspectorate concerned.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED BY THIS AUTHORITY'S INSPECTOR.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number killed and inspected ...	884	580	2,479	—
<i>Diseases—Tuberculosis:</i>				
Carcases wholly condemned	21	8	—	—
Carcases partially condemned ...	19	—	—	—
<i>All diseases, excluding Tuberculosis:</i>				
Carcases wholly condemned	3	3	3	—
Carcases partially condemned ...	4	—	2	—
<i>All diseases:</i>				
Organs condemned	1,297	99	392	—

The total amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 13 tons 2 cwt.

Other foods (including canned foods, bacon, fruit and fruit pulp) condemned amounted in weight to 3½ tons.

Food premises of all types (i.e., bakehouses, butchers, fishmongers, cafés, food manufactories, ice-cream premises, etc.) were all subjected to routine inspection. Verbal intimations and written notices were served in the case of all sub-standard premises.

MILK SUPPLY.

Tuberculosis cases of bovine origin are of prime importance when considering the present-day system of milk production. Milk not subjected to heat treatment would appear to be

responsible for a large proportion of all cases of tuberculosis of bovine origin. In similar manner, milk which has not received satisfactory heat treatment may be potentially dangerous to the consumer.

Legislative measures have been created during the last few years with the object of reducing the incidence of milk-borne infections. Nevertheless, it remains a fact that the heat treatment of all milk is not required by statute. Where a milk is designated as "Pasteurised" it is possible, by legislative methods or otherwise, to ensure that efficient heat treatment is effected and to adopt means of restricting the supply to the consumer in the event of such treatment not being satisfactory. Pasteurisation is effective in reducing pathogenic organisms to a safety level and does not materially affect the nutritive value of the milk.

The post mortem examination of cows in the abattoir reveals that many cases of tuberculosis, localised and generalised, remain undetected during the life-time of the animals. In certain instances the presence of active localised lesions of tuberculosis may leave the milk entirely unaffected, but the possibility of infection should not be entirely discounted. Mammitis and mastitis (inflammatory conditions of the udders) and tuberculosis of the organ are not uncommonly discovered in post slaughter examinations.

Local Conditions.

The district possesses 5 dairy farms, two of which produce Accredited Milk. The number of milk purveyors (including milk shops and excluding cow-keepers) is 43. Periodical visits are made to such premises.

Licences issued during the year.

	Bottling	Distribution
1. Tuberculin-tested milk	1	2
2. Accredited milk	—	—
	Pasteurising Plants	Retail Distributors
3. Pasteurisation	1	2

The producers' licences in respect of 2 above are issued by the County Council.

Sampling of Milk.

Sampling is normally carried out by the Lancashire County Council, but, where milk is purveyed in other districts, the authorised officers of those districts are empowered to take samples. In the latter event a copy of the report on sample is usually forwarded to this Department. Details of samples taken during the year are as under:—

TEST.	RESULT.		SAMPLE TAKEN BY:—		
	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Lancs. C.C.	Droyls- den. U.D.C.	Man- chester C.B.
Methylene Blue	25	9	19	4	11
Bacillus Coli	9	4	7	5	1
Phosphatase	20	4	13	—	11
Bacterial Count	3	—	—	2	1
Bacillus Tuberculosis	4	—	4	—	—
Total	61	17	43	11	24

A total of 40 samples was taken. Two individual samples were subjected to one type of examination only and, in the case of each of the remaining 38, two different tests were employed.

SAMPLING OF OTHER FOODS AND DRUGS.

This work is administered by the County Council.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Visits re	No. of visits
Structural defects	582
Water Supply	28
Drainage, closets, etc.	228
Filthy and verminous premises	29
Other insect pests	21
Defective paving of yards, etc.	5
Dustbins	201
Accumulations of refuse, etc.	6
Animals improperly kept	7
Refuse collection, salvage, refuse disposal, etc. ...	254
Rats and mice	45
Schools	8
Shops	57
Factories	102
Outworkers	18
Stables and piggeries	15
Visits re cases of infectious disease	18
Cowsheds	20
Dairies and milk shops	101
Slaughterhouses	39
Food premises of all types	72
Overcrowding	15
Smoke abatement	31
Miscellaneous	47
Total	1,949

NOTICES SERVED.

	SERVED.		COMPLIED WITH.	
	Informal.	Statutory.	Informal.	Statutory.
Public Health and Housing Acts	267	30	187	23
Factories Act	15	—	9	—
Food and Drugs Act	8	—	2	—
Total	290	30	198	23

